

Weber Declaration

Exhibit 4

33% Growth for Digital Books from Public Libraries and Schools in 2020 Sets Records

Social justice and remote learning were key factors in ebook and audiobook usage

CLEVELAND – January 7, 2021 – Librarians and educators achieved record levels of digital book circulation in 2020. Readers worldwide borrowed 430 million ebooks, audiobooks and digital magazines in the past 12 months, a 33% increase over 2019. This significant growth was influenced by the pandemic, social justice and remote learning. Data was reported by [OverDrive](#), the leading digital reading platform for 65,000 libraries and schools worldwide.

Social unrest and widespread civil protests had a profound impact on the world and libraries expertly responded. Digital books about social justice and those written by Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) or by a member of the marginalized community from which it depicts (Own Voices) experienced 165% YoY circulation growth. *White Fragility, So You Want to Talk about Race, The Hate U Give* and others became [top 10 titles checked out during 2020](#).

The most significant genre growth in 2020 was children's and YA fiction and nonfiction because of remote and hybrid learning. In addition, more than 2 million checkouts occurred through Public Library CONNECT partnerships and the [Sora student reading app](#). More public library and school partnerships than ever enabled students to use their school credentials to borrow ebooks and audiobooks from both their school and local public library.

2020 digital book lending records from the OverDrive global network:

- Total digital checkouts from libraries and schools: 430 million (+33% over 2019)
 - Ebooks borrowed: 289 million (+40%)
 - Audiobooks borrowed: 138 million (+20%, lower growth rate due to less commuting)
 - Children/YA genre checkouts: 111 million (+79%)

- Ebook and audiobook holds/wait listed: 187 million (+44%)
- 102 public library systems around the world (+72%) achieved more than 1 million digital book checkouts
 - Includes 26 systems over 2 million checkouts, 10 over 3 million, 6 over 4 million, 2 over 5 million, 3 over 6 million, 2 over 7 million and 1 over 8 million (full list available soon)
- Millions of installs of the award-winning [Libby reading app](#)

The Sora app also drove massive growth in schools' digital content usage at a faster rate than expected. Since the app was launched in September 2018, schools rapidly adopted Sora for the classroom and at home. This adoption accelerated even more in 2020, with over 43,000 schools worldwide now utilizing Sora.

In 2020 overall, OverDrive added more than 20,000 new libraries and schools in 12 additional countries, bringing the total to 65,000 in 84 countries. OverDrive announced the acquisition of RBDigital in June of 2020 which resulted in hundreds of libraries and schools joining its network. Other significant changes: 9 new languages were added into the Libby reading app's interface, including Spanish and French, and OverDrive's industry leading catalog expanded to include 3,000 digital magazines supplied by ZINIO.

Most popular ebooks borrowed from libraries in 2020:

1. [Where the Crawdads Sing](#) by Delia Owens (Penguin Publishing Group) (Putnam)
2. [Becoming](#) by Michelle Obama (Crown)
3. [Educated](#) by Tara Westover (Random House Publishing Group)
4. [Little Fires Everywhere](#) by Celeste Ng (Penguin Publishing Group)
5. [The Giver of Stars](#) by Jojo Moyes (Penguin Publishing Group) (Viking/Dorman)

Most popular audiobooks borrowed from libraries in 2020:

1. [Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone](#) by J. K. Rowling (Pottermore)
2. [Becoming](#) by Michelle Obama (Penguin Random House Audio)

3. [*Where the Crawdads Sing*](#) by Delia Owens (Penguin Random House Audio)

4. [*Talking to Strangers*](#) by Malcolm Gladwell (Hachette Audio)

5. [*Educated*](#) by Tara Westover (Penguin Random House Audio)

Top digital books borrowed from libraries by genre:

- Adult fiction: [*Where the Crawdads Sing*](#) by Delia Owens (Penguin Publishing Group) (Putnam)
- Adult nonfiction: [*Becoming*](#) by Michelle Obama (Crown)
- Young adult fiction: [*The Hate U Give*](#) by Angie Thomas (Balzer + Bray)
- Children's fiction: [*Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*](#) by J. K. Rowling (Pottermore)

A full set of most popular lists can be found [here](#).

To find a public library near you, download the Libby app (iOS, Android) or visit www.overdrive.com.

About OverDrive

OverDrive strives to create “a world enlightened by reading.” Serving a growing network of 65,000 libraries and schools in 84 countries, OverDrive delivers the industry’s largest digital catalog of ebooks, audiobooks, magazines and other content through award-winning apps. The [Libby](#) reading app for libraries is one of *Popular Mechanics*’ 20 Best Apps of the Decade, while the student reading app [Sora](#) is one of *TIME*’s Best Inventions of 2019. Founded in 1986, OverDrive is based in Cleveland, Ohio USA and was named a Certified B Corp in 2017. www.overdrive.com

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